

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are pending. By this amendment, Claims 1, 3, 16, 17, and 19 have been amended. Claims 26-29 have been presently added. No new matter was added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 9-262788 (hereinafter “JP ‘788”).

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection: With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1, 3, 16, 17, and 19 have been amended to address the issues noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Claim Amendment Summary: With respect to the claim amendments, the following summary is provided for the Examiner’s convenience and is not provided to limit the claims to any of the embodiments described herein.

(1) Amended Claim 1 is common to all the first to eighth embodiments (FIGS. 1 to 25).

(2) Amended Claim 3 and pending Claim 10 are common to the first to eighth embodiments except for the fifth embodiment (FIGS. 15 to 16).

(3) Pending Claims 4 and 24 are common to the sixth, seventh, and eighth embodiments (FIGS. 17 to 25).

(4) Pending Claims 5 and 25 are common to the first, second, third, and fourth embodiments (FIGS. 1 to 14).

(5) Pending Claim 11 corresponds (but is not necessarily limited) to the fifth embodiment (FIGS. 15 to 16).

(6) In the claims, the rotary shaft of the rotary base corresponds (but is not necessarily limited) to the rotary shaft 38 in all the first to eighth embodiments. The first transmission part corresponds (but is not limited) to a portion that integrates the output shaft of the first motor 32 with the rotary shaft 38. One aspect of a first transmission part is specifically recited in pending Claim 24.

(7) In the claims, the driving link corresponds (but is not necessarily limited) to the single link lever 92 in the first and second embodiments (FIGS. 1 to 8) and the sixth, seventh, and eighth embodiments (FIGS. 17 to 25). One aspect of a driving link is specifically recited in pending Claim 6.

The driving link corresponds (but is not necessarily limited) to the link levers 112 (114 and 116) in the third and fourth embodiments (FIGS. 9 to 14). One aspect of a driving link is specifically recited in pending Claim 7.

The driving link further can correspond (but is not necessarily limited) to the support rod 144 in the fifth embodiment (FIGS. 15 to 16).

(8) In the claims, the first and second driven links correspond (but are not necessarily limited) to the portions 94A and 94B in all the first to eighth embodiments.

(9) In the claims, the pivot shaft corresponds (but is not necessarily limited) to the shaft 96 other than the shaft 40 in the first, second, third, and fourth embodiments (FIGS. 1 to 14). One aspect of the pivot shaft is specifically recited in pending Claim 5.

The pivot shaft can correspond (but is not necessarily limited) to the shaft 40 in the sixth, seventh, and eighth embodiments (FIGS. 17 to 25). One aspect of the pivot shaft is specifically recited in pending Claim 4.

(10) In the claims, the second transmission part can correspond (but is not necessarily limited) to the transmission components 98, 100, and 102 disposed inside the rotary base 24 to couple the output shaft 40 of the second motor 34 to the pivot shaft 96 in the first, second, third, and fourth embodiments (FIGS. 1 to 14). One aspect of the second transmission part is specifically recited in pending Claim 25.

The second transmission part can correspond (but is not necessarily limited) to a portion that integrates the output shaft of the second motor 34 with the pivot shaft 40 in the sixth, seventh, and eighth embodiments (FIGS. 17 to 25). One aspect of the second transmission part is specifically recited in pending Claim 24.

The second transmission part can correspond (but is not necessarily limited) to a portion that couple the reciprocation body 142A of the linear motor to the driving link in the fifth embodiment (FIGS. 15 to 16). One aspect of the second transmission part is specifically recited in pending Claim 11.

(11) Claims 16 to 22 are non-elected claims but have been maintained as depending on amended Claim 1. Rejoinder of dependent Claims 16 to 22 is requested upon allowance of Claim 1.

(12) New Claims 26 and 27 are supported by FIG. 3, etc. and the corresponding description in the specification, and are common to all the first to eighth embodiments (FIGS. 1 to 25),

(13) New Claim 28 is supported by FIG. 3, etc. and the corresponding description in the specification, and is common to the first to eighth embodiments except for the fifth embodiment (FIGS. 15 to 16).

(14) New Claim 29 adds to the subject matter of amended Claim 1 a claim element that the pivot shaft of the driving link is coaxial with the rotary shaft of the rotary base, and is common to the sixth, seventh, and eighth embodiments (FIGS. 17 to 25).

The Art Deficiencies: In amended Claim 1, the amended portions in the paragraphs of the first and second arm mechanism and the link mechanism clarify that the first and second arm mechanisms are configured to bend and stretch, with each of the first and second arm mechanisms including a proximal end arm attached to the rotary base. Furthermore, Claim 1 defines that the first and second driven links respectively couple the driving link directly to the proximal end arms of the first and second arm mechanisms.

Figure 2 reproduced on the next page and Applicants' Abstract show a non-limiting embodiment of these features, where as described in the Abstract:

A transfer apparatus (20) for a target substrate (W) includes a rotatable rotary base (24). First and second arm mechanisms (26, 28) are attached to the rotary base and configured to bend and stretch. Each of the first and second arm mechanisms has a proximal end arm (26A, 28A), an intermediate arm (26B, 28B), and a pick (26C, 28C) which are pivotally coupled to each other sequentially from the rotary base. The picks are disposed to support the target substrate. A link mechanism (30) is coupled to the proximal end arms of the first and second arm mechanisms to drive the first and second arm mechanisms. A first driving source (32) is disposed to rotatably drive the rotary base. A second driving source (34) is disposed to drive the link mechanism so as to bend or stretch the first and second arm mechanisms.

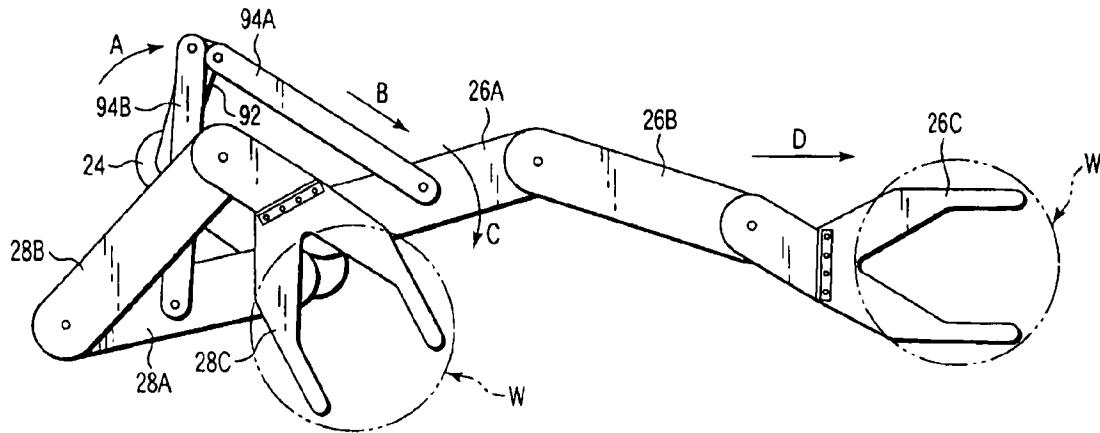
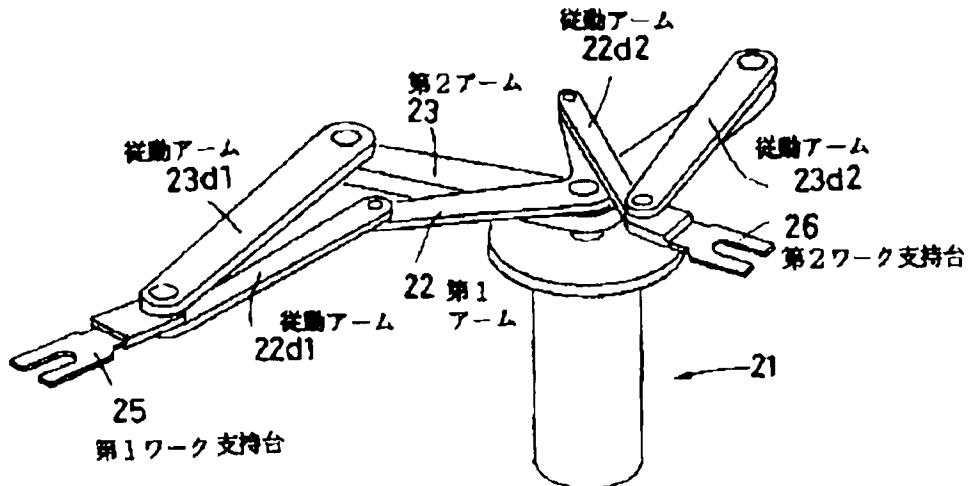


FIG. 2

In particular, in this illustration, the Examiner's attention is invited to first arm mechanism (26A, 26B, 26C) and a second arm mechanism (28A, 28B, 28C) which pivot, bend, and stretch. The Examiner's attention is invited specifically to proximal end arm 26A attached to the rotary base 24 and to intermediate arm 26B. The Examiner's attention is invited to driven link 92 coupling the driving link directly to the proximal end arm 26A.

The claimed features noted above are not disclosed (or for that matter suggested) in JP '788. Indeed, the Examiner will appreciate that, in JP '788 (see Figure 13 reproduced below) driven arms 22d (corresponding to driving links) respectively couple a first arm 22 directly to a driven arm 23d (corresponding to an intermediate arm, not to a proximal end arm attached to a rotary base. Driving links 22d do not couple directly to the proximal end arms 22 of the first and second arm mechanisms. Indeed, proximal end 23 attached to the rotary base is not directly driven or directly coupled to the driving links.

【図13】



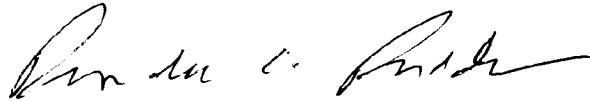
Consequently, in comparison of JP '788 to the claimed invention, not only is the above-noted feature not present but also Applicants' claimed configuration (by contacting the driving links to the proximal end attached to the rotary base) can provide a more compact transfer apparatus, which is preferable, for example, where the apparatus is disposed in a transfer chamber.

M.P.E.P. § 2131 requires for anticipation that each and every feature of the claimed invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. Accordingly, given the deficiencies in JP '788, it is respectfully requested that Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom be passed to allowance. Similarly, new independent Claim 29 should be passed to allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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